

Similar to the highly successful Department of Justice Community Oriented Policing Services—COPS—and the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Programs, the First Responder Grants will be made directly to State and local government units for overtime, equipment, training, and facility expenses to support our law enforcement officers, firefighters, and emergency personnel.

The First Responder Grants may be used to pay up to 90 percent of the cost of the overtime, equipment, training, or facility. In cases of fiscal leadership, the Department of Homeland Security may waive the local match requirement of 10 percent to provide Federal funds for communities that cannot afford the local match.

In a world shaped by the violent events of September 11, day after day we call upon our public safety officers to remain vigilant. We not only ask them to put their lives at risk in the line of duty, but also, if need be, give their lives to protect us.

If we take time to listen to our Nation's State and local public safety partners, they will tell us that they welcome the challenge to join in our national mission to protect our homeland security. But we cannot ask our firefighters, emergency personnel, and law enforcement officers to assume these new national responsibilities without also providing new Federal support.

The First Responders Partnership Grant Act will provide the necessary Federal support for our State and public safety officers to serve as full partners in the fight to protect our homeland security. We need our first responders for the security and the life-saving help they bring to our communities. All they ask is for the tools they need to do their jobs for us. And for the sake of our own security, that is not too much to ask.

I commend Senator DASCHLE for his leadership, and hope that the Senate will soon consider this desperately needed economic stimulus package.

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2001

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the need for hate crimes legislation. In the last Congress Senator KENNEDY and I introduced the Local Law Enforcement Act, a bill that would add new categories to current hate crimes law, sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society.

I would like to describe a terrible crime that occurred July 22, 2001 in Pleasanton, CA. Two men assaulted an Afghani cab driver in an incident that police labeled a hate crime. The two attackers, Kenny Loveless and Travis Gossage, both 21, yelled racial epithets at the cab driver during their ride. Upon getting out of the cab they struck the outside of the cab. When the driver got out to inspect the cab the

two men attacked the driver and continued to yell racial slurs.

I believe that Government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act is a symbol that can become substance. I believe that by passing this legislation and changing current law, we can change hearts and minds as well.

THE MEASURE OF SUCCESS: CELEBRATING A LEGACY OF AFRICAN AMERICAN ACHIEVEMENT

Ms. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, "Success is to be measured not so much by the position one has reached in life, as by the obstacles which he has overcome while trying to succeed." This statement, made over 100 years ago by Booker T. Washington, rings true today.

Twenty-seven years ago, February was designated "Black History Month." Today, I am pleased to join in the celebration of the many achievements and contributions African Americans have made to our history. I encourage all of you to celebrate this rich history of achievement year-round.

America's history has been shaped by the courage, talent, and ingenuity of African-Americans. Each February we rediscover familiar stories of those who triumphed over bigotry and hatred to help move our Nation closer to living up to its greatest potential. In the lives of Frederick Douglass, Harriet Tubman, Sojourner Truth, Rosa Parks, and Thurgood Marshall we find heroes who dedicated their lives to liberty, freedom, and equality. During this month we also celebrate the achievements and vision of civil rights leaders such as Martin Luther King, Jr. and Medgar Evers and are reminded that we must continue the important work they started.

A look through our own State's history reveals a rich portrait of African American achievement in California.

In science, George Edward Alcorn, Jr. is a brilliant physicist and inventor who has made considerable contributions to semiconductor technology and other scientific fields. He graduated from Occidental College in Los Angeles with a B.A. in Physics, and received an M.S. and Ph.D. in Nuclear, Atomic and Molecular Physics from Howard University. He has been issued more than 25 patents for his groundbreaking work and is most well-known for inventing the Imaging X-ray Spectrometer used for detecting life on other planets.

Dr. Alcorn has also been extensively involved in community service. He was awarded a NASA-EEO medal for his contributions in recruiting minority and women scientists and engineers and for his assistance to minority businesses in establishing research programs. He is a founder of Saturday Academy, which is a weekend honors program designed to supplement and extend math-science training for inner-city students in grades 6 to 8.

Mae Jemison, an African American physician, scientist and engineer, was the first woman of color to go into space more than 10 years ago. Dr. Jemison was only 16 when she entered Stanford University; she graduated in 1977 at age 20 with degrees in both chemical engineering and African American studies. A few years later, she received a medical degree from Cornell University. Dr. Jemison was selected by NASA in 1988 for Astronaut training and in 1992 became a mission specialist aboard the space shuttle Endeavor.

Throughout her career, Dr. Jemison remained undaunted by the lack of role models in her area of expertise and instead paved the way as a hero for women and minorities interested in the science and technology fields. She once said, "I saw a world that was changing and I wanted to be a part of that."

Last year, she was honored by the Mentoring Center in Oakland during a ceremony where she stressed the need for caring adults to reach out for young people in these troubled times. Just recently, Dr. Jemison encouraged a young audience at the Modesto Community College to shoot for the stars and realize their capacity to dream. She said, "We have to have a vision of what we want the world to be in the future. We must combine lessons from the past with our responsibility for the present. It's the only way to have hope for the future."

Politics: African Americans in the political arena have worked tirelessly to advance the civil rights of all people in California. Largely as a result of their efforts, African Americans are well represented in California local, State and Federal Governments.

Below is a short list of other African-American Californians who have made similar contributions to our State and communities across the Nation:

Yvonne Brathwaite Burke was the first black woman to be elected to the California General Assembly and the first to be elected to represent California in the United States Congress.

Congressman Ronald V. Dellums was elected to Congress in 1970. He was the first African-American to serve on the Armed Services Committee and was its first black chairman.

Herb J. Wesson, Jr. is only the second African American in California history to be elected the 65th Speaker of the California State Assembly, one of the most powerful positions in the State. As a student at Lincoln University, a historically black college, Mr. Wesson was inspired to pursue a political career while listening to a speech by then Congressman Ron Dellums of California.

During his career, Mr. Wesson has introduced bills that protected labor rights for immigrant workers, ensured pay equity across gender lines, increased funding for low performing schools, and promoted job training for at-risk teens. He has earned a reputation as a natural born leader, mediator

and bridge-builder, someone other Assembly members turned to when seeking to resolve a conflict.

Sports: African Americans have played an extremely influential role in the development of professional sports. Among the most prominent, Tony Gwynn has demonstrated excellence on and off the field. A native of Long Beach, Gwynn played baseball for the San Diego Padres for 20 years.

In addition to his incredible skill on the diamond, Gwynn became a sports hero for youth across the nation. Demonstrating sportsmanship, community service, and athleticism, Gwynn has won numerous community awards for his dedication and activism. He was inducted into the World Sports Humanitarian Hall of Fame in 1999.

California can also be very proud of its local African American heroes—those who often go unrecognized by the national community.

Improving the community relations in her native neighborhood of Watts, in Los Angeles, has been a lifelong commitment for “Sweet” Alice Harris. “Sweet Alice,” as she is affectionately called, is the founder of Parents of Watts, a program designed to encourage children to stay in school and away from drugs.

Today, Parents of Watts has grown into numerous organizations that provide emergency food and shelter for the homeless, offer health seminars, provide legal and drug counseling, and operate a program for unwed mothers.

Sweet Alice is truly one of the best known and most influential community leaders of her generation. Her lifetime of service and commitment to disadvantaged youth stems from her early years as a homeless teenage parent at age 16. In March of 2002, Lt. Governor Cruz Bustamante honored Sweet Alice with the Lt. Governor’s Woman of the Year award for her tireless efforts for providing Los Angeles youth with a fighting chance in their community, a dedication that has spanned nearly 40 years.

This Black History Month, I would like to applaud all African American heroes who have overcome great adversity and risen to incredible heights of success. Many of these heroes have come from humble beginnings, making their successes and contributions to their communities all the more remarkable.

I look forward to the coming year in which we will, without a doubt, continue to see African Americans succeed and make a difference, both in their communities and in our country.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

• **Mr. NELSON** of Florida. Mr. President, I rise today to commemorate and honor the achievements of African-Americans as the celebration of Black History Month draws to a close. I know

my colleagues join me in remembering the sacrifices and contributions African-Americans have made to our country. From laying the foundation of the United States Capitol, to creating the design of the Nation’s capital, a feat accomplished by noted scientist Benjamin Banneker, composing great music and writing classic literature, African-Americans’ influence on our society and culture is immeasurable.

So many of our modern conveniences are due to the innovation and imagination of great African-American inventors like Garrett A. Morgan, creator of the modern stop light and the gas mask, which our Nation’s forces may be utilizing in combat in Iraq. The great scientist, George Washington Carver, took tiny peanuts and engineered myriad uses for them. Pioneering astronauts like Guion Bluford, and most recently, Lieutenant Colonel Michael Anderson, whom we lost in the *Columbia* tragedy, undertook experiments in space that will advance our technological and scientific knowledge, expanding our horizons to space and beyond.

It is only fitting that we take time to remember these and other numerous accomplishments. Our Nation, and indeed the world, have benefited from the selfless sacrifices African-Americans have made in service to our country. We must continue to work to ensure that all African-Americans are afforded the opportunity to participate in, and realize, the American Dream. In the words, of Reverend Doctor Martin Luther King, Jr.: “We are not makers of history. We are made by history.” Indeed, the history and experiences of African-Americans have helped shape America and will continue to do so for generations to come.●

CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE CELEBRATES ITS 150TH BIRTHDAY

• **Mr. GREGG.** Mr. President, I rise today in honor of Concord, the Capital City of New Hampshire. As the United States prepares this year to observe the 227th anniversary of our independence, the citizens of Concord will be celebrating the City’s 150th birthday. It is therefore timely and appropriate that we recognize this great American community.

Concord runs eight miles from north to south and covers almost 39,000 acres. However, this geographic description fails to illustrate its unique position in New Hampshire and U.S. history. First settled in the early 1700’s as the Plantation of Penacook, an Indian word describing the serpentine but beautiful meanderings of the Merrimack River, the town was later renamed Rumford in 1734 and then Concord in 1765. In 1853, 150 years ago, the people living there incorporated Concord as a city. In 1788, the leaders of New Hampshire approved the new federal constitution in the Old North Meeting House in Concord and, thus, New Hampshire became the ninth and ratifying state of the

original thirteen. Since 1809, Concord has served as the Capital of New Hampshire and, naturally, has been the heart of political life in our state. However, the City has a proud record for being the center of commerce and transportation as well. One of its best known industries was the Abbott-Downing Company which shipped thousands of its famous stagecoaches and wagons all over the world. In addition, the granite from Concord became the cornerstone for buildings throughout the United States. Furthermore, the City was the northern hub for the railroad industry in the first half of the 20th century.

Of course, we cannot talk about this city without praising its most distinctive feature: the people of Concord. In this community, the citizens value the importance of helping one’s neighbor and, thus, have long been responsible for strengthening the New Hampshire way of life. They have never been restrained in lending their talents and energy to any noble cause. The experiences of two Concord residents in the Civil War exemplifies this ethical code. On April 15, 1861, President Lincoln issued a proclamation calling for 75,000 troops to fight to preserve the Union. Within hours of learning of this announcement, Concord Police Officer Edward Sturtevant enlisted in the Army. Because he was such a natural leader, he was eventually promoted to major and later gave his life at the Battle of Fredericksburg. Harriet Patience Dame also greatly contributed during this time. At the age of 46, she offered her services as an Army Nurse. From the time of her enlistment until well after the war ended, she cared for the injured, the sick and the dying without taking one day’s furlough or one day’s sick leave. An exhausting schedule to be sure but one that fits the character of Concord.

This spirit continues into modern times and may be best expressed by Concord school teacher Christa McAuliffe as she was preparing to become the first teacher in space: Her message “I touch the future, I teach” perfectly captures the dedication which characterizes the people of this community. With that, I am proud to honor and salute them as they celebrate the 150th birthday of Concord, New Hampshire, the Capital City of the Granite State.●

HONORING DOROTHY GONZALEZ

• **Mr. JOHNSON.** Mr. President, I rise today to honor the late Dorothy Gonzalez, of Rapid City, SD. On February 17, Oglala Lakota College’s East Wakpamni District College Center in Batesland, SD, was renamed in Dorothy Gonzalez’s honor. This is an honor she richly deserves.

Dorothy had a distinguished 28 year career as an educator and administrator at Oglala Lakota College. In 1975, she became East Wakpamni District College Center’s first director. She served as East Wakpamni District